



An illuminating history of North America’s eleven rival cultural regions that explodes the red state–blue state myth

AMERICAN NATIONS

A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America

COLIN WOODARD

North America was settled by people with distinct religious, political, and ethnographic characteristics, creating regional cultures that have been at odds with one another ever since. Subsequent immigrants didn’t confront or assimilate into an “American” or “Canadian” culture, but rather into one of the eleven distinct regional ones that spread over the continent each staking out mutually exclusive territory.

In *American Nations*, Colin Woodard leads us on a journey through the history of our fractured continent, and the rivalries and alliances between its component nations, which conform to neither state nor international boundaries. He illustrates and explains why “American” values vary sharply from one region to another. Woodard reveals how intranational differences have played a pivotal role at every point in the continent’s history, from the American Revolution and the Civil War to the tumultuous sixties and the “blue county/red county” maps of recent presidential elections. *American Nations* is a revolutionary and revelatory take on America’s myriad identities and how the conflicts between them have shaped our past and are molding our future.

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COLIN WOODARD is a writer, historian, and journalist who has reported from more than fifty foreign countries and six continents. He is a foreign correspondent for *The Christian Science Monitor* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and his work has appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Economist*, *Smithsonian*, *The Miami Herald*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *Newsweek.com* and the author of *The Lobster Coast* and *Ocean’s End*. He lives in Portland, Maine.

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